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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION
HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Erdogan Plans 'Friendship Message' in Greek Cyprus -
Hurriyet
Investigation of Four Former Ministers - Hurriyet
Biometrics introduced for US Visa - Hurriyet
First Step into South Cyprus - Milliyet
Italians Mourn their Dead - Turkiye
Afghan Model for Iraq - Turkiye
Italy's September 11 - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

TRNC Celebrates 20th Anniversary - Cumhuriyet
Washington Changes Its Iraq Plans - Yeni Safak
PKK in Search of A New Name - Yeni Safak
Chaos in Iraq Scares Off Japan - Zaman
Reuters Poll: Turkey Will not be Admitted to EU Before 2014
- Radikal

BRIEFING

Erdogan's Cyprus Visit: "Hurriyet" reports that in during his visit to Cyprus tomorrow, PM Erdogan wants to go cross into Greek Cyprus to deliver a 'message of goodwill.' Turkish Foreign Ministry officials are holding contacts with both Greece and the Greek Cypriots to arrange the visit. During his meetings with Denktas and opposition parties, Erdogan will stress that the Annan plan can be used as a basis for discussion toward a solution in Cyprus. "Cumhuriyet" reports that CHP leader Deniz Baykal and many deputies and diplomats will go to TRNC to mark the entity's 20th anniversary. "Turkiye" says that Foreign Minister Gul has developed a new Turkish plan to resolve the Cyprus issue. According to the plan, Turkey will offer concessions to settle the Maras issue and agree to reduce the Turkish military presence on the island.

Ambassador Edelman Rejects Allegations for PKK-US Hostage Exchange: "Hurriyet" and "Zaman" report that US Ambassador Eric Edelman met with Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Ugur Ziyal yesterday at the request of Turkey. Reportedly, Amb. Edelman gave details on the clash between PKK/KADEK militants and US forces with Kurdish peshmerge. Edelman reportedly said that the clash was not the result of a planned operation, and added that the US had not exchanged any prisoners with the PKK/KADEK.

Italian Reaction to Nasiriye Attack: Italy is mourning the loss of 18 Italian soldiers killed in Wednesday's bomb attack in the Southern Iraqi city of Nasiriye. The Italian press describes the attack as 'Italy's September 11.' After the attack, Italian opposition parties have demanded that their troops be withdrawn from Iraq. "Zaman" reports that the attack has frightened Japan, and a Japanese government spokesman announced the government's decision to postpone a possible Japanese troop deployment in Iraq.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"Saddam Takes Revenge"

Sami Kohen observed in mass appeal Milliyet (11/14): "The situation in Iraq increasingly makes clear that Saddam

Hussein has started to take his revenge on the US. The magnitude and style of the attacks against the occupation forces indicate an organized guerilla war, if not a popular resistance. . Following these developments, the US administration felt the need to reevaluate its Iraq policy. According to Washington-based reports, the Bush administration has now decided to transfer authority from Americans to Iraqis as quickly as possible. If that is really the case, it indicates a complete U-turn in US policy for Iraq. The Bush administration has pursued a policy based on the belief that it has all the capabilities to finish the job alone. This miscalculation has come at a high cost. Things would have been different had the US acted along with an international peacekeeping force and under UN authority."

"American Puzzle"

Hasan Bulent Kahraman opined in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (11/14): "It seems that the US policy for Iraq as well as its theories about Iraq's future have totally collapsed. It is unlikely that the Bush administration can overcome the consequences in the foreseeable future. Yet there is an unanswered question that remains in the air: Will President Bush be re-elected after all of these failures? Not only it is early to talk about the election, but it is also difficult to draw a conclusion based on the current situation. The opposition has not yet presented a strong case for itself in the upcoming campaign. Moreover, Democrats are not suggesting any new policy guidance for Iraq - they have limited themselves to criticizing the administration. Let's not forget the impact of patriotic feelings, which helped the Bush administration gain needed support from the Congress, including support from Democrats. . The gist of the issue is probably not about Republicans and Democrats, who are saying almost the same thing. The real issue is about the lack of US creativity in coming up with new ideas. The situation is like a complex American puzzle for which even the US doesn't have the answer."

EDELMAN